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LUNAR INFLUENCE.

By Dr. Price, Herbalist.

Ancient and modern Physicians, from the days of Aristotle to the time Dr. Mosely, have contended, that the Animal and Vegetable world, were under *Lunar Influence*; moreover it is asserted that almost all People of an extreme age Die at the new or full Moon!

The following list of "eminent Persons" seems to confirm the above *Theory*:

T. Parr died aged 152, two days after full moon.
John Edmunda " " 144 " " "
Henry Jenkins " " 169 the day of new moon.
Elizabeth Steward " " 124 " " "
Elizabeth Hilton " " 121 two days af. full moon.
Wm. Liland " " 140 the day after new moon.
John Constant " " 113 two days af. new moon.
Chaucer died 25 Oct. A. D. 1400 day of first qr.
Henry VIII, " 28 Jan. 1547 " " "
Connaro " 26 April 1566 " " "
Luther " 16 Feb. 1546 three days af. full moon.
Calvin " 27 May 1564 two days after full moon.
Copernicus " 24 May 1543 one day af. last qr.
Shakspeare " 23 April 1616 one day af. full moon.
Camden " 9 Nov. 1623 one day bef. new moon.
Queen Elizabeth " 24 Mar. 1603 day of last qr.
Bacon " 9 April 1626 one day after last quarter.
Vandyke " 9 Dec. 1641 two days after full moon.
Rechelieu " 4 Dec. 1642 three days bef. " "
Dr. Harvey " 30 June 1657 a few hrs bef new "
Milton " 15 Nov. 1674 two days " "
Cromwell " 3 Sep. 1658 two days aft. full moon.
Locke " 28 Nov. 1704 two days before " "
Sydenham " 29 Dec. 1687 " " "
Louis XIV " 1 Sep. 1715 a few hours bef. " "
Marlbrough " 16 June 1722 two days " "
Newton " 20 March 1726 two days bef. new "
Sterne " 18 Sep. 1768 two days after " "
Whitfield " 18 Sep. 1770 a few hours bef. " "
Swedenborg " 19 Mar. 1792 day after full "
Linnaeus " 10 Jan. 1778 two days before " "
William Pitt " 11 May 1778 day of " "
Bacon " 2 July 1778 day after first quarter.
Bacon " 20 Jan. 1779 three days af. new moon.
Bacon " 14 Dec. 1786 two " " "
Bacon " 21 April 1790 day " " "
Bacon " 22 Feb. 1792 " " "
Bacon " 16 Dec. 1793 three days af. full "
Bacon " 9 July 1797 at the full moon.

Sir William Hamilton died 6 April 1803 a few hours before the full moon.

Not only does the Moon seem to influence our Death, but our life also; for it is an established fact; that persons subject to this, have them more frequent at the Full and Change of the Moon, than at any other period, moreover men who are deranged, are called Lunatics from the same cause; brades Earthquakes Tempests and Epidemics, are more violent then, than at any other time.

Why then I ask? should men condemn Astrology, the only Science which teaches us that we are under the influence of the heavenly Bodies or Planets: all the Ancients believed it; Sir Isaac Newton, Scaliger, Bacon, Dryden, Burton, Flamstead, Galileo, Luther, Blackstone, and a host of other moderns. Therefore if I reject all their testimony, as false, why believe any evidence at all?

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THE LOST FACULTY,

Or, the Sixth Sense.

SECOND SIGHT.

This faculty is, beyond a doubt, the result of mental vision, and the possession of it by certain persons is so well authenticated, that we have no hesitation in including it in our illustrations of the same principle. The following instance is related by Dr. Ferrier, in his work on the subject:

A gentleman connected with my family, an officer in the army, and certainly addicted to no superstition, was quartered, early in life, in the middle of last century, near the castle of a gentleman in the north of Scotland, who was supposed to possess second sight. Strange rumors were afloat respecting the old chieftain. He had spoken to an apparition, which ran along the battlements of the house, and had never been cheerful afterwards. His mental vision excited surprise even in that region of credulity, and his retired habits favored the popular opinion. My friend assured me that one day, whilst

He was reading a play to the ladies of the family, the chief, who had been walking across the room, stopped suddenly, and, assuming the look of a seer, rang the bell and ordered the groom to saddle a horse, and proceed immediately to a seat in the neighborhood, to inquire after the health of a lady. If the account was favorable, he then directed him to call at another castle, to ask after another lady, whom he named. The reader immediately closed his book, and declared that he would not proceed till these abrupt orders were explained, as he was convinced they were produced by second sight.

The chief was very unwilling to explain himself, but at length he owned that the door had appeared to open, and that a little woman without a head had then entered the room—that the apparition indicated the death of an acquaintance of his; and the only two who resembled the figure, were those ladies after whose health he had sent to inquire. A few hours afterwards, the servant returned, with an account that one of the ladies had died of apoplexy about the time the vision appeared.

Another time, the chief was confined to his bed by indisposition, and my friend was reading to him, in a stormy winter's night, whilst the fishing boat belonging to the castle was at sea. The old chieftain repeatedly expressed much anxiety respecting the people, and at last exclaimed, "My boat is lost!" The Colonel replied, "How do you know that, sir?" He was answered, "I see two of the boatmen bringing in a third, drowned, all dripping wet, and laying him down close by your chair!" The chair was shifted with great precipitation. In the course of the night the fisher man returned with the corpse of one of the boatmen.

Sir Norman McLeod, who had his residence on the island of Bernera, which lies between the island of North Uist and Harris, went to the Isle of Skye about business, without appointing any time for his return. The servants, in his absence, being altogether in the great hall, at night, one of them accustomed to see the second sight, told the rest they must remove, for they would have abundance of company that night. One of his fellow-servants answered that there was very little appearance of that; and if he had seen any vision of company, it was not likely to be accomplished that night. But the seer insisted upon it that it was. They continued to argue the improbability of it, because of the darkness of the

night and the danger of coming through the rocks that lie around the isle. But within an hour after, one of Sir Norman's men came to the house, bidding them provide lights, etc., for his master had now landed.

VISCOUNT DUNDEE.

Lord Balearras was confined in Edinburgh Castle; and, unconscious of what was impending, saw the apparition of Viscount Dundee enter his bed-room at the very moment he fell at the battle of Killiecrankie. The spectre drew aside the curtains of his friend's bed, looked steadfastly at him, leaned for some time on the mantel-piece, and then walked out of the room. The Earl, not aware at the time that he was gazing on a phantom, called upon Dundee to stop. News soon arrived of the unfortunate hero's fate.

(Written for the Monthly Planet Reader.)

Sketches of English & American Herbals.

By Dr. Manty; Medical Botanist.

The following rare little Book, appears to have been the first Astrological Herbal published in England; the Author Anthonye Ascham, was Vicar of Barnishton, Yorkshire, England, and a man of much learning; having been educated at the University of Oxford; he wrote several other works, all of which were held in high estimation, in their day:

"A Lyttle Herball of the properties of Herbs, newly amended and corrected with certain additions at the end of the Booke, declaring what Herbs hath influence of certain Stars and Constellations, whereby may be chosen the best and most lucky times and days of their ministration; according to the Moon being in the Sign of Heaven, the which is daily appointed in the Almanac, made and gathered in the year A.D. 1550, 12th February, by Anthonye Ascham, Physician: London, 1550, 12 mo."

In 1552 Willim Copeland, a noted printer of Romances and Ballads; (but whether the author of the work or not cannot be ascertained,) Published a small Herbal; with the following title:—

"A Book of the Properties of Herbs, Called an Herball, wherunto is added the tyme that Herbs, flowers, and seeds should be gathered to be kept the whole year, with the Virtues of Herbs, when they are Stilled; also a general rule of all manner of Herbs drawn out of the Ancient Books of Physic; with a Book of the Seeing of Urines of all colours that Urines be off, with the Medicines annexed to every Urine: Much Profitable for every man to be known; by W. C. 12 mo."

London, William Copeland, A. D. 1552.

John Maplet Professor of mathematics in Cambridge College; wrote and published a little Book,

which is not strictly speaking an Herbal; but as it mentions plants, and is altogether *Astrological*; I subjoin the title:

"A Green Forrest, or a Natural History; wherein may be seen the Sufferaigne Virtues, of all kinds of Stones and Metals; next of *Plants* as *Herbs Trees*, lastly of Brute Beastes, Fowles, Creeping Worms and Serpents; and that Alphabetically," by John Maplet, Master of Arts, London, 1567 8 vo. 112 Leaves.

The above three Books are all extremely Rare, but of little utility except as works of reference.

Those wishing to purchase Curious old Herbals, would do well to call at E. Price's Bookstand, Custom House yard, Chestnut St., ab. 4th.



The Fate OF THE NATION.

FOR FEBRUARY 1862.

The New Moon from which we make our Predictions for February, took place on the 29th of January, at 9 h. 38 m. P. M. When the 3d degree of Libra was ascending, and the 3d degree of Cancer was culminating. Saturn and Jupiter are both retrograde, and near a conjunction in the 12th house, in trine to Mercury in the 5th. The Lunation falls in the fifth house, and Venus is lady of the Scheme, and is in the 6th house in square to Mars in the third, and in square to Herschel in the 9th. These are Portentous configurations, and under their influence I do not look for any prospect of the war coming to an end. But on the contrary, when the *war-like planet Mars forms a square of the evil planet Saturn on the 7th day*, and Herschel is stationary on the 16th, in the ruling Sign of this country. (What do these omens portend? who can unravel the mysteries of heaven?) I am afraid that things will begin to

look gloomy again in this country, and the planets will show the skeptic whether they have any influence or not in mundane affairs.

The planet Mars passes over the place of Venus and Mercury, and forms a square to Jupiter's, and an opposition of Saturn's place, in this month in Gen. McClellan's Nativity. There will be some pretty hard blows struck near the end of this month, or the beginning of March, and I am afraid that Gen. McClellan will be hard put to it to keep his word, that he promised to his soldiers, when he said "that there should be no more backward movements." I look for much sickness and mortality in the army, and among the people generally, in this month.

The above aspects would show much danger of some misfortune to the Navy, belonging to the general government. And they indicate that fires, accidents, and misfortunes, will not be far to seek during this month.

Trade and commerce keep very dull and nothing appears to be attempted to put war news and excitement, and I look for much suffering and want among the poor people.

The above aspects will afflict England. I look for news arriving of an excitable nature, that will not be favorable for the Northern States.

(Concluded from Page 40, Vol. 2d.)

SHOOTING STARS

AND

METEORS.

Meteors are these *solid fiery bodies* which from time to time visit the earth, sweeping through the sky with immense velocity in every direction, and remaining visible but a few moments; they are generally attended by a luminous train, and during their progress, explosion usually occur, followed by the fall of stones, to which the name of *aerolites* is given, from the Greek words *aer*, atmosphere, and *litkos*, a stone.

The phenomenon of the celebrated November meteors, which have been so often observed at the same time of the year, indicates that there are certain bodies moving round the sun, besides those generally visible. To this class the November meteors, and many other shooting stars, probably belong, and they owe their brightness to the violent col-

cession with our atmosphere. The showers of aerolites, or shooting stars, that have so frequently fallen, were probably nothing but groups of these, which came within the sphere of the earth's attraction. But some shooting stars cannot well be referred to this class: for, as they shine within the earth's shadow, and far above the atmosphere, they must be luminous; and their velocity is much greater than consists with the supposition of their having planetary motions. We must, therefore, consider them rovers, like comets, some of which wander indefinitely far from the sun, and others, perhaps, never cross our path a second time.

Fire-balls, bolides, or fiery meteors, present a spectacle more imposing than common shooting stars. They are sometimes seen of an immense size; their light is occasionally red, but oftener of a vivid, dazzling whiteness, like the flame of zinc, mixed with nitro. Yet they seem to differ from the other meteors only in being larger, or perhaps nearer; and the same description will apply to both.

We see these meteors, often in the space of a few seconds, appear to traverse the horizon, blaze like fire-works, then break in pieces, and discharge torrents of flame, with a detonation that shakes the air and the earth, at the moment of their explosion. There are some, which are precipitated like a thunder-bolt, break through the roofs of houses, destroy animals, and dismast vessels, and shatter them. At other times they move over the earth like a whirlwind of flame, set fire to trees, and devour, or at least overthrow everything that obstructs their course. But such occurrences are only rare exceptions: for they generally pass without doing any injury to property.

At half past six o'clock, on the morning of the 14th of Dec. 1807, a meteor was seen rushing over part of the State of Connecticut, which appeared half as large as the full moon, as it shot across the clear sky, its glowing body flashed and sparkled like a firebrand carried against the wind. Behind it streamed a pale, luminous train, tapering in form, and ten or twelve times as long as its diameter. The meteor was visible for the space of half a minute, and just as it vanished it gave three, distinct bounds; and then were heard three heavy explosions like the reports of a cannon, succeeded by a whizzing noise. A man then heard something fall, & on going to the place, found an aerolite in the ground.

Prognostic Astronomy: ASTRO-PHRENOLOGY.

All those who wish by science,
Their destiny to know;
And have'n't given them a trial,
Should now to Broughtons' go.

They will tell you your fortune,
How in life you'll succeed;
If you will be prosperous,
Or you'll die in great need.

They'll tell you, your destiny,
And to what age you will live;
If you'll die by an accident,
Or die old and quite rich.

They will tell you, your sickness,
And describe your complaints;
And where lays your weakness,
And how soon you will mend.

They will tell you, your failings,
And how to correct them;
They will tell you, your talents,
And how to direct them.

They will tell you, your business,
Or what you should follow;
Whether fit for a merchant,
Or best fit for a scholar.

Or would make a good preacher,
Or soldier, or sailor;
Or succeed as a teacher,
Or tinker, or tailor.

Or best learn a profession,
Either lawyer or doctor;
Or would make a good artist,
Or do best as an actor.

They will give a description,
Of the person you'll marry;
And describe their complexion,
And the marks they will carry.

They'll tell you if you'll marry,
The person you would like;
Or if you will live happy,
When in a married life.

They will tell you how many,
Boys and girls you will have;
Or if you will have any,
And how many will live.

To know your fortune, good or ill,
And what business you should follow;
Go to North Tenth, near Callowhill,
And they'll tell you for a dollar.

Residence No. 353 North Tenth St., Phila.